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COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM THE TERRITORIES OF THE BALTIC STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 1 September 1994 from the representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the Joint Statement of the Presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, issued on 31 August 1994 on the occasion of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia and Latvia (see annex).

We would greatly appreciate it if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 26 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Heino Ainso
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Estonia

(Signed) Aivars Baumanis
Permanent Representative
Latvia

(Signed) Gintė Damušis
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Lithuania

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* A/49/150.

Annex

Joint Statement of the Presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, issued on 31 August 1994 on the occasion of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia and Latvia

31 August 1994 is a momentous day for our three countries, for our immediate neighbour to the east, and for Europe as a whole. With the final withdrawal of Russian forces from Estonia and Latvia, our three peoples have again become genuine masters of their own fate for the first time since 1940. And we are thus in a position to refocus our efforts to strengthen our democratic institutions and to improve the way of life for all our peoples.

It is also a key date for our eastern neighbour, the Russian Federation. With the completion of the withdrawal of its forces from our countries, the Russian Federation now moves closer to the accepted norms of international behaviour. That step, in turn, should help ensure the development of better relations between her and our three countries. Such an outcome is in the interests of all the peoples of the region.

And 31 August 1994 is equally important for Europe as a whole, because the Russian army has left both our countries and Germany. These two steps, and the fact that they are taking place on the same day, we are firmly convinced will enhance European stability and help promote the common European values that our peoples have struggled towards for so long.

Lennart Meri	Guntis Ulmanis	Algirdas Brazauskas
President	President	President
Republic of Estonia	Republic of Latvia	Republic of Lithuania